



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
August 22, 2000

Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Department of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Director's Office
Park's Division, Allan Kuser
Regional Supervisors
Information Officers
Lands Section
Design and Construction
Legal Unit

Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Bldg, Helena, MT 59620
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Wildlife Federation, 3289 Wood Duck Lane, Stevensville, MT 59870
Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave, Helena, MT 59620
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
Dawson County Commissioners, Dawson County Courthouse, Glendive, MT 59330
Glendive Chamber of Commerce, 313 S. Merrill Ave, Glendive, MT 59330
Harold and Lou Temple, West Glendive, Glendive, MT 59330
Jack Tunnell, West Glendive, Glendive, MT 59330

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Intake Fishing Access Connecting Road Improvements project, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until September 05, 2000. If you have any questions, feel free to contact John Little, Parks Manager, at (406) 232-0900. All comments may be sent to the undersigned.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Don Hyypa
Regional Supervisor

Dawson

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Intake F.A.S. Road Improvements

Intake Fishing Access Site connecting road improvements include paving 5,150 of road. This project will be done on an existing road. Dawson County road crew will rip, blade, compact, add gravel as needed, and apply the asphalt.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks has the authority to provide development for public recreation on Department lands (23-1-102 MCA).

3. **Name of Project** Intake Fishing Access Connecting Road Improvements

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dawson County Commissioners
Court House, 207 West Bell Street
Glendive, MT 59330

5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Early fall 2000

Estimated Completion Date 10 days from start date

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 100%

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

West ½, Section 25, Range 56 East, Township 18 North in Dawson County.

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

- (a) Developed:

residential. 0 acres

industrial. 3.3 acres

Replacement of existing road surface will disturb 3.3 acres. The 3.3 acres represents the entire road surface.

(b) Open:
Space/Woodlands/
Recreation. 0 acres

8 Wetlands/Riparian
Areas. 0 acres

(d) Floodplain. 0 acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland. . . . 0 acres
dry cropland. 0 acres
forestry. 0 acres
rangeland. 0 acres
other. 0 acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

See maps in Appendix
Vicinity Map
Road Map

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

The proposed road project is intended to upgrade the county road into Intake Fishing Access Site resulting in easier access for visitors to the Fishing Access Site. The existing road surface is dangerously slick when wet, extremely rough in sections and very dusty when dry. Neighbors along the road are complaining about the poor road conditions which is exasperated by increased visitation. The Intake Fishing Access Site plays a significant role in providing recreational opportunities on the lower Yellowstone River and fulfilling the mission of the Fishing Access program in eastern Montana. Intake currently provides a seasonal economic boost to the town of Glendive and other communities in eastern Montana. The site is also the location of the best paddlefishing in eastern Montana and a paddlefish caviar collection operation conducted by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce. The proceeds from the caviar operation are made available to local nonprofit organizations to make improvements to outdoor recreation. Area residents and transient site users alike have stated improved road surface maintenance is

paramount. This project is not on Fish, Wildlife & Parks property but rather on a Dawson County owned road. The project is a cooperative project between FWP, Glendive Chamber of Commerce, private land owner and Dawson County. FWP and the Chamber of Commerce are each contributing \$18,500 towards the project, the private landowner is donating the crushed gravel and Dawson County will provide all equipment, fuels, oil mix and labor.

Specifically, the current gravel road produces dust, erosion and rough road problems with one section becoming dangerously slick when wet. Motorists drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid rough sections, experience poor visibility due to road dust and occasionally slide into the barrow pits during wet weather. These road conditions discourage many people from either going to the site or returning in the future. These road conditions require additional maintenance efforts and expense on the part of Dawson County in order to maintain a reasonably smooth and safe road surface.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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None.

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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N/A

8 Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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Dawson County	Owner of road
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11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

None.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
< a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
< c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X		Yes	1
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- The work, paving, will upgrade existing roadways where impacts are already present. This project is primarily A major maintenance of an existing road and facilities where man caused disturbance will be reduced by the project. The road improvements will result in decreased sedimentation from surface run off resulting in a net decrease in human impacts on the land resources.

³ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
< a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				1
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Yes	2
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. For For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. There will be no emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality other than during the construction period due to the use of heavy equipment, however this will be short term (less than 14 days).
2. There will an increase in odors from the exhaust of machinery and application of the oil to the road surface. These odors will be present only during the construction phase which is expected to take less than 14 days.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

5

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comm Inde
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
< a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				1
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		Yes	2
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. For For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. For For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. There will be no alteration or impacts to the surface water resource.

2. Paving of the roadway will increase runoff onto adjacent soils. Site design, erosion control during construction will limit topsoil loss, while reclamation of native vegetation will stabilize soils. Reducing the slope on the first 500 feet of roadway will lessen the velocity of water flow and a properly designed and constructed road stabilize road edges and improve public safety. Monitoring of erosion control and revegetation efforts after construction will allow for quick and appropriate corrective action as needed.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	1
f. For For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. As construction commences soils will be opened allowing introduction of unwanted weed species. Revegetation and weed control efforts will eliminate the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

< 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X		Yes	1
h. For For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				2
i. For For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. Short term impacts may occur to area wildlife during construction but will cease upon completion.
2. A record Search with the Montana Natural Heritage Program shows the Bald Eagle, Upland Sandpiper , Least Tern occur in this vicinity.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			1
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- The short term effects of noise disturbances from this project will be minimal because the construction period is less than two weeks in length. The area is remote, only one home is within a quarter mile of the project and the occupants are anxious for project completion.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		Yes	1
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X		Yes	2
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- Accidental spills or discharge of hazardous materials or toxic substances from construction equipment mitigated by immediate and emergency site clean up and reclamation. The spill or discharge would be physically contained and the affected site would be reclaimed through either on-site remediation, including bioremediation, or removal of contaminated soil with disposal in an approved location. The affected area would be reclaimed through the placement of new clean topsoil, recontoured and seeded with the appropriate native species.
- Paving the road with asphalt will introduce petroleum into the area and herbicides may be used before and after construction. Proper construction techniques will retain petroleum products to the intended uses of road bed stabilization and pavement surfaces. Pesticide application rates and methods will minimize risk to people and the environment during construction and maintenance operations. The use of herbicides for weed control will be applied under the supervision of a licensed weed control operator and performed in accordance with standard safety precautions and manufacturers labeling instructions. (See narrative 1 above for accidental spills.)

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X		Yes	1
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X		Yes	2
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1. The project may result in an increase of tourism dollars for Glendive businesses and FWP. Road improvements provide for more comfortable and enjoyable visitor access to Intake Fishing Access Site. This may lead to an increase in the number of visitors to the site.
2. During construction access to site will be impaired. To mitigate this construction will be completed during shoulder seasons to minimize impact to site visitors. The road will be open for public use on Saturday and Sunday throughout construction to lessen the impact to early and late season site visitors. Once completed road improvements will increase safety and ease of travel into Intake FAS.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: <u>park and recreation facilities</u>			X		Yes	1
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?			X		No	2
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
< e. Define projected revenue sources						3
< f. Define projected maintenance costs.						4
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- The project will not impact the operation and maintenance at Intake Fishing Access Site. The area most affected will be county road maintenance.. The road reconstruction and paving will shift county maintenance costs from monthly grading and graveling to periodic major maintenance at five to seven year intervals. Major maintenance would cover pavement treatments such as crack repair, striping, and chip sealing. The primary benefit to the public and neighboring landowners is a safe smooth road surface which enhances visitor enjoyment of the park. Peripheral benefits include reduced dust and vehicle noise and increased motorist safety.
- The paving or the Intake access road may increase State Bed Tax revenues if a rise in overnight camping and lodging is realized in Glendive and surrounding Montana communities. The amount and associated impact of the additional bed tax revenue is, in part, dependent on marketing and promotion of the Intake site by FWP, and Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.
- 3 & 4. Revenue and maintenance funds are license fees for the FWP portion of the funding. The Glendive Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture funds are derived from the proceeds of the paddlefish caviar operation. County road maintenance funds are from County's general road fund. Road maintenance costs will decrease due to more pavement and reduced slope requiring less maintenance and grading.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

< 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
<c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X		Yes	1
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- The proposed project will increase ease of access to Intake Fishing Access Site which may result in increased recreational use of the site. The proposed improvements correct safety and access problems.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Commen Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
<a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				1
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- All work will occur on previously disturbed sites, the existing built up road bed and barrow area (ditch).

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)			X		Yes	1
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. For For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. For For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.	X					2

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- The sum total of this actions may result in an increase in the number of visitors to Intake Fishing Access Site following completion of construction. This possible increase in visitation will have little influence on maintenance of the paved road. The road project will smooth out ruts and bumps while eliminating dust and associated noise from vehicles decreasing the impacts on the road. Increased public safety while traveling on a paved road with a center line will enhance the quality of the site users experience and protect human life and property. This project does not increase the amount of road in, or leading to the site or expand vehicle access, however it does make the existing access more available to the public.

Camping and picnic facilities at Intake FAS have the capacity to accommodate this possible increase in use without expansion or construction of additional sites. Road construction and renovation actions and improvements in this project will repair or harden the existing road which has deteriorated from age or years of recreational use.
- Dawson County Road Foreman will secure all applicable permits and clearances before project construction begins.

2. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

NO ACTION: The state legislature and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have made a commitment to eastern Montana and its recreational resources. Failure to implement this project will leave the Intake FAS with a rough/washboard and slippery when wet conditions, dusty and largely primitive connecting road. The neighbors will continue to suffer from dust problems and be called on to aid stranded motorists who have slid off the road, the County and Department will continue to receive complaints regarding the condition of the road and be forced to continue grading and periodic addition of gravel. Visitor safety and comfort will continue to be compromised.

REDUCE PROJECT SCOPE: Following are the circumstances if project scope is reduced.

Pave only a portion of the road – The remaining, unpaved portions of the road will continue to need frequent maintenance. Rough/washboard, dusty and slippery when wet conditions will prevail on the unpaved portions. During wet weather the site will be largely inaccessible. Those motorists who do attempt to reach the site will cause road surface damage which will continue in high maintenance costs to the county and continued complaints from neighbors and the recreating public.

Adding gravel without paving – Inherent dust and rough/washboard conditions along with safety concerns will remain. Periodic regaveling will be a requirement along with frequent grading and complaints from neighbors and site users.

3. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:** N/A

4. **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO. If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**
No, an EIS is not required.

There will not be significant impacts to the natural or human environment created by this project. The proposed project will simply improve an existing road which is rough, dusty and in frequent need of maintenance.

5. **Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

30 day public comment period with an open house should the public request one, to present preliminary plans and discuss proposed actions. There are no serious environmental issues associated with these improvements.

6. **Duration of comment period if any: Two (2) weeks..**

7. **Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:**

John Little (406) 232-0900
Region Seven Parks Manager E-mail: jlittle@state.mt.us
P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

See narrative under each checklist.